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EOC Spot Report, Initial: William Olefins Plant Explosion, Geismar, Ascension Parish, LA

This report is being sent as a Bcc to prevent accidental reply-all messages.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1100 hours, 6/13/13

Overview: Local authorities are reporting an explosion and fire at the William Olefins Chemical Plant near Geismar, LA which is approximately 23 miles south of Baton Rouge. The explosion occurred at approximately 1000 hours on June 13. Unconfirmed reports state that the fire may involve propylene and ethylene polymers. A precautionary shelter-in-place order has been issued to local residents. . Authorities are also reporting an unconfirmed number of injuries.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Local fire and hazmat teams, Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are mobilizing to the scene.

EPA Actions: HQ EOC contacted R6 for an update. The R6 REOC contacted LDEQ for an update and will continue to coordinate with them. An R6 OSC activated START contractors and they are mobilizing to the scene. START will conduct air monitoring in the immediate area of the incident. LDEQ is not requesting additional assistance from EPA at this time; however, an R6 OSC is on standby to mobilize as needed.

Media Interest: Medium

<http://www.wafb.com/story/22581898/plant-explodes-and-is-on-fire-in-geismar?c=n>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide additional updates as appropriate.

